LODI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Incorporated October 20, 1988

LODI HISTORIAN

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 1 SPRING 1991

A History of the Lodi Library

by Maurice Hill

Lodi residents began to talk about and formulate plans for a local library soon after the town was formed.

It wasn't until the spring of 1882 that positive action was recorded. The ladies of Lodi rented three rooms from Mr. Robert Taylor on Sacramento Street. As the rooms were being fitted for public use, subscribers were putting up their funds. J.W. Magley, C.O. Ivory, C.T. Elliott and J.L. Keagle donated $20 each; Mrs. A.T. Ayers $12/year; Thomas Fairchilds $10; and G.W. Hill $5 — for a total of $251 for a town library and reading room

In March of the same year, the Lodi Sentinel gave its opinion of how a local reading room should be conducted. "Keep it open evenings only opposed to open daily, would be an extra expense and trouble. It is a fruitless task to attempt to reform that dissolute class of young men who idle away the daytime hours about the saloons. The great benefit is in affording the honest working class of young and old men a virtuous and agreeable place after the work of the day. We suggest further that the reading room *be* a reading room, and not a club room for noisy games. We would exclude cards, checkers, dominoes, etc. not so much as a moral measure, but as a necessary precaution to preserve the life of the reading room"

In June of 1885 a paper was being circulated by Ralph Ellis for the establishing and stocking of a free reading room for Lodi and the neighboring community. A group of people headed by The Honorable J.A. Loutitt, Benjamin F. Langford and Ross Sargent subscribed $1,500 with $50 from the congressman. The room opened with 97 books, including five Bibles. These were housed in three rooms in the Heald Building.

In September of 1885 the directors of the Lodi Library Association met at the home of C.O. Ivory. The directors were listed as Mrs. C. Boalt, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. W.P. Grant, Professor Mills, Tom Cornwall, and C.O. Ivory, the latter being president of the board.

In the Lodi Cyclone for October 1, 1885 it is noted that members of the Lodi Library Association met to appoint committees to take charge of the library affairs.

"Hill's proposition of rooms adjoining his jewelry store for $15.00 a month was accepted." It was found a librarian could be secured for $10.00 a month and the businessmen and association members had subscribed the amount necessary to cover their expenses. This subscription enabled them to take out books to read from the library. It was announced that at the next meeting arrangements would be made and a date given for the opening of the library rooms.

The Lodi Library and Reading Room Association was organized in 1886 with Watson Green (lawyer) as president. It was announced that the library was housed in the Lodi Sentinel office and contained 600 volumes.

By March 25, 1886 the Library and Free Reading Room had moved into a room adjoining the post office.

To raise money for the library a great minstrel performance was advertised for April 1, 1886. The day of the event, the Lodi Silver Tone Cornet Band headed by a bass drum and a man with a shotgun, headed a parade through the main part of town.

That evening, an expectant audience filled Smith's Opera House. Curtain time arrived, but it was delayed minute after minute until the impatient crowd began to clap and demand that the show go on. Finally, the curtain arose displaying a large sign on

Maurice Hill poses in front of the recently completed library, June 30, 1910.

Miss Amy Boynton probably contributed more to the Lodi Library than any other citizen. She joined the library as assistant librarian in 1919 soon after graduating high school. In 1922 she was appointed chief librarian and served the City of Lodi in that capacity until her retirement in 1963.

Below: A large crowd gathered to witness the laying of the Lodi Public Library cornerstone, April 7, 1909. Although the library has long since moved to new quarters on the corner of Church and Locust streets, the original Carnegie building still stands. Today the structure is known as Carnegie Forum and houses the Lodi City Council chambers.

which was printed, "April Fool!" There were some who took the joke with good humor; however, there were many disgruntled customers who demanded that their money be refunded.

I believe, as a mollifying aftermath, seats were removed from the floor and a dance for everyone took place. The net proceeds from the "show" increased the library fund by $120.00.

In April of the same year the library received a gift of 163 volumes from Congressman Louttit.

In October of 1886 there is the first mention of Harvey S. Clark as librarian in the Lodi Sentinel. It is not known whether Mr. Clark was the first chosen librarian or not. Mr. Clark has usually been spoken of as Lodi's first librarian and probably he was.

In early October 1886, a report given in the Sentinel reveals that by this time the constitutional term for library offices had expired. Charles O. Ivory was president of the library association and was to call a meeting for the election of new officers and receiving reports from the old officers. It was expressed that the general opinion was that new officers, and new interests would help to put the library association in good shape. It was recorded that "Mr. Clark has kept accurate records of the finances of the Association and has, as librarian, proven the faithful friend of the library."

In the Lodi Sentinel issue of November 13, 1886 it was noted that new officers would be elected the following Tuesday at the library rooms. Already it was stated that Lodi had one of the best country reading rooms in the state. The Sargent brothers pledged $100.00 for new books before Christmas, provided the trustees put the library in shape, and that it would be sustained.

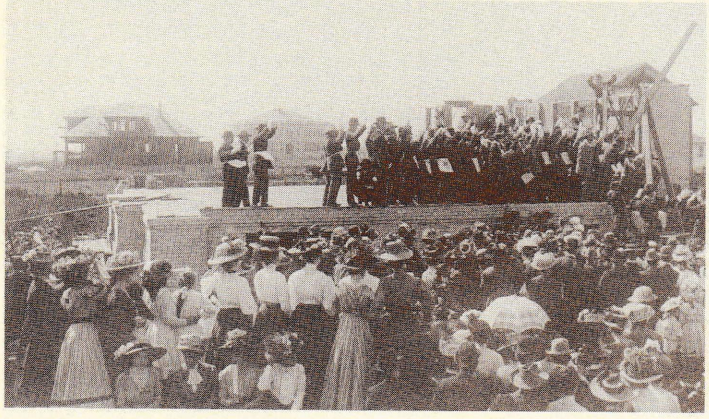
At the election in late November of 1886 librarian Clark reported that 463 books belonged to the library: biography - 35; history - 59; juvenile - 8; fiction - 115; travels and voyages - 24; science - 12; religion - 17; reference - 6; poetry - 29; and essays - 30. The records showed that the library had been well patronized, 1/10th of the books being drawn every month. Each evening the reading room was visited by eight to ten men and boys. The net debt was about $60.00. The results of the election were as follows: C.O. Ivory, reelected president; W.C. Green, vice president; W.B. Piper, secretary; W.J. Rixon, treasurer.

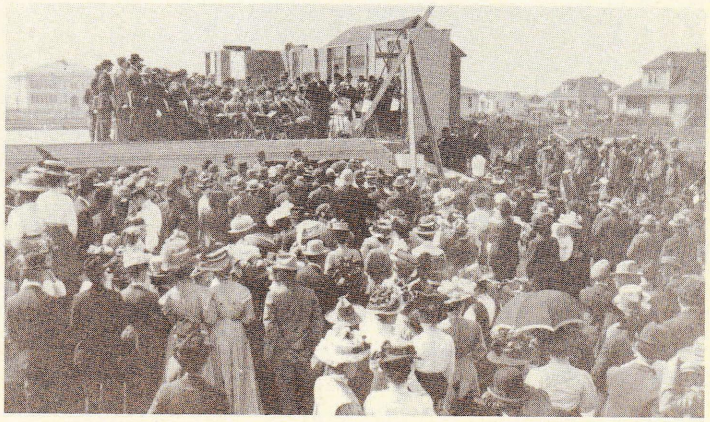
Mrs. E. Grant, Mr. Moore, Mr. D. Green, M. Gonyon and M.C. Dow were elected as trustees while E.F. Grant, M.C. Dow and W.B. Piper were appointed to form a new constitution. Evidently Mr. Clark was retained as librarian.

In January of 1887 the trustees of the Lodi library secured the rooms adjoining Hill's Jewelry Store (both in the Hill building on north Sacramento Street) where the library and reading room was to open to the public in the evenings. This was the second time the Lodi library was located in the Hill building. The Lodi Cyclone brought out a notice in August of 1887 that the library would have to move again due to the building boom. This time the library was to have rooms in the building of Mrs. Scott Keagle on the corner of Sacramento and Oak streets. It mentions also that this was the second time the library had also been in that location.

From one of the local papers one learns that in March 15 of 1888 an entertainment was held to help defray expenses for the library and also for improving the local park.

Preceding the program, an excellent





supper was spread for those attending.

A little after eight o'clock Carrie Ivory played a military march. After a few measures 28 "peasant" girls, headed by Miss Belle Nevin, commander, marched upon the floor. The girls were dressed alike in costumes of short red skirts trimmed in black, with black bodices laced with red. They wore cream-colored waists and sleeves, red caps and red slippers.

"Each young lady carried some kind of light-weight agricultural implement, and as the columns marched in perfect time about the room, the impression was so pleasing as to bring forth general applause.

"The girls performed difficult drill work and during the latter half, the maneuvering was increasingly intricate. The tactics had been taken from the uniformed ranks of the Knights of Pythias and Knight Templar drills. The drill work was under the instruction of Captain Thomas F. Tracy." The young ladies who took part in the drill were: Josie Taylor, Maud Dickerson, Jennie Perkins, Nettie Lawrence, Hattie McClung, Nettie Shattuck, Nellie Hutchins, Lizzie Thiele, Lou Whittier, Ada Whittier, Stella Simpson, Jessie Acker, Louie Burr, Mamie Kennedy, Rebecca Kettleman, Maud Zeigler, Emma McSherry, Fannie Smith, Mrs. T.W. Boalt, Maud Hern, Georgia Carlton, Mary Bragg, Ida Gove, May Carlton, May Gum, Clara Kettleman, Mamie Sollars and Frankie Nelson.

After this drill team, there sounded the approach of many feet — the brigade led by Commander Jeanne d'Arc Boalt. "They marched in ungraceful angles over the floor and they had a standard bearer and bass drummer which added to the displeasing effect produced by dragging dresses and disarranged bustles. They also sang and the audience was glad to have them off the floor."

Carrie Ivory gave a difficult piano solo "Golden Youth". This was followed by a soprano solo by May Stevens whose voice was noted as having "power and sweetness". She gave two numbers: "When In My Dreams I Meet You" and "Angeles Serenade".

Professor C.B. Newton gave humorous recitations. A talented musician from Stockton, George Franks, gave two fine violin pieces "Scene de Ballet" and "Batchelder's Buttons". Mrs. D.J. Oullahan of Stockton was the accompanist. Miss Boschen of Stockton rendered a difficult piano number.

One of the most pleasing features of the evening was the Spanish dance by the "peasant" girls. The pantomimes were considered very funny which furnished much amusement.

The program concluded with a beautiful tableaux formed by the young ladies, after which the floor was cleared for dancing.

The affair netted the managers about $200.00 to be equally divided between

April 1961: Isabel Reynolds and Amy Boynton, right.

the library and the public square.

In the big fire of 1887 the reading rooms were all destroyed, but the books were saved. In the next four years interest must have waned or funds were not sufficient to carry on the library as such for, in July of 1892, a meeting of Lodi citizens was held in the law office of Watson C. Green. Here it was decided to accept Dr. W.M. Mason's offer to take charge of the books which had belonged to the Lodi Library. Accordingly, committees were appointed to refit the bookcases and move the same, together with the books, to the doctor's office.

Mrs. W.C. Green, assisted by Misses Carrie Ivory, Nellie Hutchins and Florence Hoffman were appointed to call on the people and secure any books belonging to the library. It was hoped that those having books in their possession would return them without waiting to be called on. "Lodi will, with Dr. Mason's help, have an excellent public library, one of which all may feel justly proud."

The following advertisement for Powell's Cash Store in Lodi appeared in the Sentinel in August of 1885: "Free — a large handsome valuable book and a membership in the Library Association can be secured only at our store. You can have your choice of the following books: Favorite Cookbook (528 pages); The City of Palaces (160 pages);

Left to right: Twila Knight, Virginia Newcomb, unknown, Amy Boynton and Isabel Reynolds gather in the main room of the old Lodi Carnegie Library.

An early Christmas party at the Lodi Library. Standing, from left: Philoma Ferguson Thompson, Gladys Boynton and Ellen Williams. Seated: Isabel Reynolds, Dorothy Floyd, Laura Field Coe, Amy Boynton, Virginia Newcomb, Edna Smith, unknown, unknown and Helen Botts.

Musical Leaves (music, 320 pages); Peck's Bad Boy & His Pa (544 pages); Frank Fairweather's Fortune (374 pages); Shakespeare's Complete Works (1,227 pages); Art, Society and Accomplishments (381 pages); The Royal Gallery of Poetry and Art (540 pages).

"The Library Association is organized for the purpose of enabling its members to secure the leading publications of the day at a saving of 25% from retail prices and to place within their reach the many high standard copyright books that it is difficult to obtain. For the convenience of members a handsome catalog of 106 pages containing about 3,000 volumes has been issued and will be presented free with each certificate of membership. The catalog is arranged under the following classifications: general literature, science, art, religion, poetry, history, biography, standard sets, juvenile sets and modern fiction. If you purchase but one book a year, you will be a member of this association and if you purchase a number, you cannot afford to be without a membership.

"To everyone calling at our store, we will give a handsome little memorandum book and an explanation of the Library Association. These elegant books and Library Association catalogs can be examined at our store. Everyone is invited to call."

In early 1896 the newly formed Study Club presented a petition to the trustees of the library to be allowed to take charge of it, increase the number of books, employ a regular librarian and keep it going in first class shape. It was believed at this time that the trustees would grant the petition. There were about 600 books in the library which were considered standard works. The Study Club's intention was to find new quarters for the library, possibly a room over Friedberger's and Kaiser's store and to have hours made convenient for the readers.

What happend regarding the Lodi Library between 1896 to 1901 can only be surmised. Again, lack of concentrated enthusiasm and diligent efforts to preserve the library as such and the ever frustrating lack of funds must, indeed, have played an important part in the inability to sustain the project, plus the discouragement which no doubt prevailed due to unsuccessful attempts in the past to maintain a library on a solid-going basis.

Apparently, it wasn't until 1901 that a group of Lodians interested themselves sufficiently to work again for a library for the town.

In an issue of the Lodi Sentinel of October 1901 there is a small piece in reference to Lodi's situation library-wise. The paper states that "Livermore is the first town in California to take advantage of the law passed last winter by the Legislature authorizing municipalities to establish libraries.

"Lodi is not so fortunate. There is a small collection of books belonging to the town which Dr. Mason has cared for; then, there is the circulating library at Chrisman & Company (drug store), the privileges of which are granted for $1.50 per year." New books were supplied annually.

There is a discrepancy in the date of 1901 which is given for the opening of the first public library in Lodi. Just how this particular date was chosen is a matter of conjecture. In the piece regarding the local situation which existed concerning the library as of October, 1901, it is quite evident that no such public library was in operation at that particular time. However, by March of 1902 "A public meeting was held in Hill's Hall for the purpose of establishing a public library, gymnasium with equipment and a literacy society for those disposed. The town has a library which Dr. Mason has been caring for." It would appear from this that Dr. Mason had had the library books in his custody since 1892, a period of ten years. There is no evidence that during this time the library was in active operation. It is an ambiguous situation, for, on the other hand there is no proof that books were not obtainable from Dr. Mason's office

Another Christmas party, some years later. Left to right, back row: Ruth Bechthold, Isabel Reynolds, Edna Smith, Emily Munsch, Virginia Newcomb, Marguerite Brucht, Ms. Wagers. Front row: Amy Boynton and Ruth Miller.

where the books were kept. At no time was Dr. Mason called the librarian — always that he was caring for the books which in themselves might be termed as what constituted a "library".

In the Lodi Sentinel of May 31, 1902 is the announcement that "The Lodi Library opens to the public." A large number of people thronged the room. An entertainment was given for those attending. There was a selection by the orchestra, a solo by Eva Beckman Bailey, remarks by the president of the library association, W.H. Thompson followed by an address by Frank Beckman. Ice cream and cake were served. The location and name of librarian was not given.

If it is true that the library functioned at all in 1901, and, as has been publicized, met for awhile upstairs in the J.L. Collins building on north Sacramento Street, it was just another abortive attempt to establish a permanent library.

The booklet in celebration of the library's "fortieth" anniversary in 1941 gives the following as the board of trustees in 1901: Dr. W.M. Mason, Mrs. C.L. VanBuskirk, Mrs. Theron R. Lillie, Miss Lulu Villinger and Wilson H. Thompson. In 1941 Mr. Thompson was still on the board of trustees along with H.F. Ellis, George L. Meissner, Dr. W.J. Coffield and Robert Rinn. By 1951, W.H. Thompson had served on the board of directors of Lodi's library for about 50 years, 45 of those years having served as head of the board.

The early library had a constant struggle to obtain sufficient funds to carry on the institution. It is noted that on September 4, 1902 "the Wardell Concert Company gave a benefit performance, the library receiving 30% of the proceeds after $12.00 for expenses were deducted. The amount netted was $14.15." In 1903 the library cleared $67.50 from a benefit ball game. The library spent $30.00 of this sum on new books.

It has been recorded in 1903 that the sum of $20.00 was considered an adequate salary for the librarian. Sometimes money was not available and the librarian had to wait for his pay until there was adequate cash on hand.

In 1906 the library sponsored a "lawn fete" which brought in $152.70. Immediately, the board of directors paid all back bills on hand.

The board of trustees decided that the Lodi Library and Free Reading Room had outgrown its Sacramento Street location upstairs and named a committee to seek a ground floor location.

In November 1906 the Southern Pacific Railroad, which had just built a new passenger station, offered to donate its old depot for use as a library. A second committee was named to seek a site and determine costs of moving the depot. C.C. Calvin, S.P. president sent an expert from the railroad's planning department to aid in the selection of a more suitable location. He predicted the business district was about to move west from Sacramento Street. He chose a vacant lot which is now 305 W. Pine Street.

Some trustees heard that Andrew Carnegie was disposing of his fortune by donating money to indigent and potential public libraries. The Reverend Weldon P. Grant of the Lodi Methodist Church was association trustee from 1905-1910.

Early efforts to secure the grant failed. The board then resorted to national politics. The congressman from West Pennsylvania, a classmate of Reverend Grant, The Hon. Arthur Bates, and a congressman from Amador County, California, Mr. Cammanetti offered their influence.

There were conditions attached to the gift. In addition to securing a site, the new library must be publically supported instead of by private subscription as before. The library must be guaranteed $1,000 annually for operating expenses, the first thousand to come from the grant itself.

In February 1907, the city trustees (councilmen) were asked to assume ownership of the library by a petition with 185 signatures. Among those signing was Henry Ellis, editor of the Lodi Sentinel and a trustee of the library. Appearing to oppose city ownership of the library was Dilse Hopkins, editor of the Lodi Herald. These two locked horns in a day when journalism was "purple", and the town rocked with invective. Editorial followed editorial, each more bitter than the one before.

Later in 1907 the city fathers voted a tax grant which gave partial support to the needs of the library.

In May of 1907 Librarian Clark's annual report contained the following facts pertaining to the library: over 9,000 persons visited the rooms between April 1906 and April 1907; as many as 40 people were in the room at one time; many working men found a welcome there with comfortable

February 26, 1955. Amy Boynton, head librarian, A.W. Marquardt, secretary of the board of trustees (center), and Dr. W.J. Coffield, president of the board, received a $1,000 bequest from the estate of Miss Nellie Hutchins.

Amy Boynton, right, with Burton and Alice Towne.

chairs and plenty of literature provided; the daily attendance averaged 25; there were 1,064 books and 698 magazines; a total of 1,762 pieces of literature borrowed between May 1, 1906 and May 1, 1907; during the year $303.40 was paid into the treasury by contributors. There were 117 on the library list who were paying $2.00-$6.00 a year toward the support of the library. There was still due $60.15 from regular contributors.

Harvey Spencer Clark was, as far as is known, Lodi's first librarian. The little booklet issued in 1941 gives Mr. Clark as having served in this capacity from 1901-1909. But more time-credit is due Mr. Clark in recognition of his long association with the activities of the Lodi library going back at least to 1886 and possibly even further.

Harvey Clark, Sr. was a native of Michigan and was born in 1835. For awhile Mr. Clark was engaged in the newspaper business at Monroe, Michigan and Georgetown, Colorado.

He came to the Lodi region in 1875 and pursued farming for awhile, then moved to Lodi.

Mr. Clark was appointed postmaster in 1889, a position he held until 1901 when his health made it necessary to change his occupation.

In the Lodi Valley Review of March 26, 1884 there is mention of the fact that Harvey Clark, Sr. had had the misfortune of losing an arm.

Harvey Clark, Sr. passed away in 1913, having served his city in two important capacities — as librarian and postmaster.

The second attempt by Grant and the board to secure a Carnegie grant was made in 1909 and proved successful.

The $10,000 arrived in Lodi. The city paid for the lot and on April 7, 1909 the cornerstone was laid under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Masons. There was singing by a Masonic quartet and an oration by Judge C.W. Norton.

The new Lodi Carnegie Library opened its doors on February 12, 1910 with J.A. Swallow as head librarian, a position he held until 1917.

Joalison Swallow (J.A. for short) was born in Indiana March 31, 1857 and passed away January 28, 1942. He married Mary Chappel in 1888. Mr. Swallow was a victim of polio at the age of 6 months, having his left side paralyzed. He was an expert penman and always amazed everyone with his ability to contruct things — he had an inventive mind.

He started out as a teacher in a one room country school. In 1907 the family moved to Lodi for health reasons. Through the efforts of Rev. W.P. Grant, Mr. Swallow was appointed to the position of librarian of the new Carnegie Library. In preparation for this he went to Stockton and took a course in library science. He loved being surrounded by books and being able to meet and make friends with the patrons. Those were very happy days for him.

In 1917 the Swallows moved to Sacramento for a time, then to San Francisco. He worked for a time as a clerk at Y.M.C.A. Then they moved to Berkeley where he became city assessor.

In 1918, Miss Helen C. Bullock was employed as librarian, a position which she held until 1922.

Following Miss Bullock was Miss Amy Boynton of Lodi who held the position from 1922-1963. During her administration as head librarian many changes and improvements took place.

In 1928 a $26,000 expansion program was launched with funds from savings from the municipal water and electricity systems. The library was remodeled and space added by an addition for a children's room, stack room, work areas and an auditorium. The latter space has been used for forums, exhibits, story hours and art shows.

In 1951 more remodeling took place. A $7,500 book stack room was added in the basement of the original building. This area housed the biography, history and travel sections of the library's collection. There was also a small room for the meeting of the trustees.

In 1954 a bequest of $1,000 was assigned the library by the late Miss Nellie Hutchins, daughter of one of the pioneer families of the region.

Amy Boynton came to California from North Carolina in 1905 and joined the library staff in 1919, becoming librarian in 1922. Miss Boynton was listed in "Who's Who of American Women" since 1958 and was named Citizen of the Year in 1961 by the Lodi District Chamber of Commerce. She was an active participant in civic affairs and in local and county organizations.

Miss Amy Boynton will be remembered long by Lodians. She was a devoted and efficient librarian and the City of Lodi owes much to her effectiveness in the pursuit of her duties over many years of sacrificial service.

Miss Boynton was the daughter of Charles L. and Ethel Boynton. The family included sister, Gladys, and

three brothers, Lawrence, Linn and Charles. When the family first came to Lodi, they settled on a 15 acre place at Henderson Village on the Lower Sacramento Road. After seven years the father sold the place and moved to Lodi.

As a freshman, she became engrossed in the Encyclopedia Britannica during her study periods in the library (at the first Lodi High School lcoated on the northwest corner of Lodi Avenue and Church streets), and it was that summer that she assisted the librarian-teacher in taking the library books from the old school to the brand new school on Hutchins Street, soon to be known as the East Campus and later Tokay High. It was then she decided to become a librarian.

In 1919 she was approached to take the assistant city librarian post and put away her hopes of going to San Jose State Teacher's College; although later she was able to take a concentrated course in library training at Riverside Librarian Training School.

Miss Boynton was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Lodi and was, for many years, a member of the board of directors and of the executive committee of the Lodi Memorial Hospital.

Some of the other organizations in which she was active were the Lodi District Chamber of Commerce, the California Library Association, the Woman's Club, Lodi Garden Club and the Lodi Business and Professional Woman's Club, of which she was the first president. Also, she was an active member of the Lodi Travel Club, the American Legion Auxiliary, the San Joaquin County Historical Society, the San Joaquin County Safety Council which presented her with a top award for Women in Safety in 1960, the Flora Rebekah Lodge 162 of Lodi where she served as Noble Grand and the Chapter of S.H. of P.E.O. Sisterhood.

There are numerous names connected with the history of the Lodi library. Miss Isabel Reynolds joined the staff in 1922 and after completing 40 years of service received a five-diamond cluster pin from the city. This marked the third time the award had been presented. Miss Boynton received the second.

The name of Edna Smith must be included among those who served the Lodi Library long and faithfully. She started working at the local library in 1925 after returning from college at San Jose. Incidentally, she married W. Correl Smith, former Lodi High School science instructor the same year.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Henry Thompson, after whom the Thompson Room was named, look on as Amy Boynton cuts the 50th anniversary cake.

Mrs. Smith gave up her work at the library for a time in the rearing of her three children, and also while she was going through the chairs in the Woodbridge Chapter of Eastern Star lodge. When she returned to the library, it was on a full time basis and she became the head of the Lodi children's library, a position which she filled with distinction.

Edna Smith retired from the Lodi Library in October, 1968.

The name of Mrs. Virginia Newcomb should be mentioned. Mrs. Newcomb served with the Lodi Library for 30 years. She has been specially praised for being one of the best sources of information in Lodi.

It should be noted that Wilson H. Thompson of Lodi was extremely prominent in the Lodi Library activities for many years. He was a member of the library board over 50 years and was said to be president of the board 45 of those years. Mr. Thompson passed on in September of 1953.

Mrs. W.H. Thompson in 1961 gave to the Lodi Public Library her collection of 27 scrapbooks covering the events and accounts of people in the Lodi area. A room, appropriately named the Thompson Room was set aside to house this comprehensive and diverting collection. In addition to the volumes devoted to Lodi, Mrs. Thompson compiled two scrapbooks of wildflowers, one of a European tour in 1922, and one of a Mediterranean cruise in 1926, 17 volumes of postcards and 40 volumes of photographs.

The Lodi Historian
is a quarterly publication
of the Lodi Historical Society
P.O. Box 264, Lodi, CA 95241-0264

Ralph Lea .....Editor
Charles Stenson .....Editorial Assistant

Officers
* Birgit Hempel.....President
Maria Serna .....1st Vice President
Anne Meyers .....2nd Vice President
Michael Nickerson .....Recording Secretary
* Lucy Reller .....Corresponding Secretary
* Ralph Lea .....Chief Financial Officer
* Violet Stenson.....Parliamentarian

Board of Directors
* Jean Bedford
* Susanne Benbrook
Marilyn Burns
Ynez Capell
* Mary Kalange
Kay Lang
* Howard Mason
Walter Pruss
* Walter Scott
Tony Silva
* Del Smith
Virginia Snyder
* Bing Taylor
Florence Wheeler
**History Committee Member*

History Committee
Howard Mason, Co-Chairman
Lynn Benbrook
Evelyn Hassbaum
Verne Hoffman, Jr.
Patricia Hoffman
George Kalange
Roxanne May
Hugh Metcalf
Charles Stenson

All rights to republication are reserved. Permission to quote or use material herein should be obtained in writing.

Following the retirement of Miss Amy Boynton in 1963, Leonard L. Lachendro who had been head librarian at the Bethel Park, PA library for two years was appointed librarian for the Lodi Public Library in May of 1963. He actually assumed his duties here on September 1, 1963. During the interim Mrs. Isabel Reynolds served as acting librarian with Miss Boynton acting as librarian emeritus.

The Lodi Public Library has continued to progress under the new leadership; but the fact became apparent that the library had outgrown its present location.

In December of 1972 the Lodi City Council voted to proceed with the purchase of the old St. Peter's Lutheran School property on the northwest corner of Locust and Church streets. Councilmen authorized City Manager Henry Glaves to proceed with the purchase of the site at a cost of $145,000. Funds for the purchase of the location would come from the library construction fund begun in 1969. About $204,000 had accumulated in the account from a 10 cent tax per $100 assessed valuation levied each year.

By May of 1973, after considerable discussions and suggestions for other possible sites, the Lodi City Council and Library Board appeared to agree on the above mentioned site.

Miss Amy Boynton passed away on October 12, 1973.

Thus ends a good era of Lodi Library history with thanks to all board members and library personnel such as Lewis P. Singer, Frank Johnson, Miss Ida Rinn, R.P. Rott, Nellie Cooper, Ruth Miller, Minnie Preszler, and Ruth Bechthold.

The three photos on this page were taken by Edna Smith.

THE RUNAWAY

[This incident is given as it appeared in the Lodi Valley Review for May 14, 1881.]

"Lively Runaway -- Monday afternoon, while Knox Thorp was engaged in laying pipe at the McSherry residence, his horses, attached to a buckboard, took French leave and came down the street like a hog in a hail-storm to the Granger's corner, where, turning up Sacramento Street, they pirouetted in and out between the hitching rails and sidewalk, causing such a scattering as was never before seen among the pieces of human statuary placed along the curbing, and which were highly indignant at having their smirking smiles (expressly prepared to capture the innocent school girl on her homeward way) rudely and unceremoniously broken in upon. Near Rich's corner, they caught an old man on the fly who turned about 17 revolutions before stopping, the air being filled with pans, pots, kettles and other traps with which the old fellow was loaded. At the Sargent House Corner, the vehicle collided with Taylor and Company's bulletin board post, separated from the horses, bounded to the other side of the drive, struck a locust tree and settled down a total wreck, as well as leaving a large portion of the flower paling in the same condition.

The animal was finally stopped without sustaining any serious injury to himself. The old man was picked up laboring under a scare and some pretty bad bruises, though nothing serious. Mr. Thorp had him taken to the Sargent House and cared for."

Scenes from Amy Boynton's retirement party. Above, the Boynton family, left to right, Charles, Gladys, Linn, Amy and Lawrence. Below left: Ellen Williams, Amy Boynton, Isabel Reynold, Edna Smith and Virginia Newcomb. Below right: Ida Rinn, Amy Boynton and Medora Johnson.